# ARIZONA STATE SENATE

Fifty-Fifth Legislature, Second Regular Session

### FACT SHEET FOR H.B. 2707

public schools; moment of silence

## Purpose

Requires school districts and charter schools to set aside between one and two minutes at the beginning of each school day for a moment of silence for students in kindergarten programs and grades 1 through 12 (K-12 students).

# **Background**

A school district or charter school must set aside a specific time each day for students who wish to recite the pledge of allegiance to the U.S. flag. A school district governing board may require a period of silence to be observed at the beginning of the first class of the day. If required, the teacher in charge of the class must announce that: 1) the period of up to one minute of silence will be observed for meditation; and 2) during that time other activities are prohibited and silence must be maintained (A.R.S. §§ 15-342 and 15-506).

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the state General Fund associated with this legislation.

#### **Provisions**

- 1. Requires a school district or charter school to set aside at least one minute and up to two minutes at the beginning of each school day for K-12 students to engage in a moment of silence.
- 2. Directs teachers to encourage parents of K-12 students to discuss with their children how to best use the moment of silence.
- 3. Prohibits a teacher or other school employee from suggesting the nature of any reflection in which a student may engage during the moment of silence.
- 4. Prohibits students from interfering with other students' participation in the moment of silence.
- 5. Makes technical changes.
- 6. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

### House Action

ED 2/15/22 DP 8-1-1-0 3<sup>rd</sup> Read 2/24/22 47-12-1

Prepared by Senate Research March 18, 2022 LB/KJA/slp